

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUPTM

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©

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU



MARTIAL
ARTS MAGIC
TO ASSAULT YOUR
SENSES!

THE
NIGHT
OF THE
NINJAS!



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me and molded my mind and my body in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: That my name means "The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit," that my body could be forged into a living weapon. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu** the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

"IN THE CARELESS FILTH OF MANHATTAN, ON A STREET CORNER CLOAKED IN THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT WITHOUT SUN OR MOON, I HAVE MET THE ANCIENT CALLED MOON SUN... HE WHOSE PURPOSE BUILDS SECRETS AND WHOSE EXISTENCE FORMS NO MORE THAN A QUESTION.

COME, SHANG-CHI--
COME. AND LET HASTE
SHAPE YOUR PATH...

CAGES OF MYTH,
MENAGERIE
OF
MIRRORS!
Wibbubz!

...LEST ALL
MYSTERIES
SLOWLY
DIE.

"I HESITATE,
IN DARKNESS
AND SECRECY...

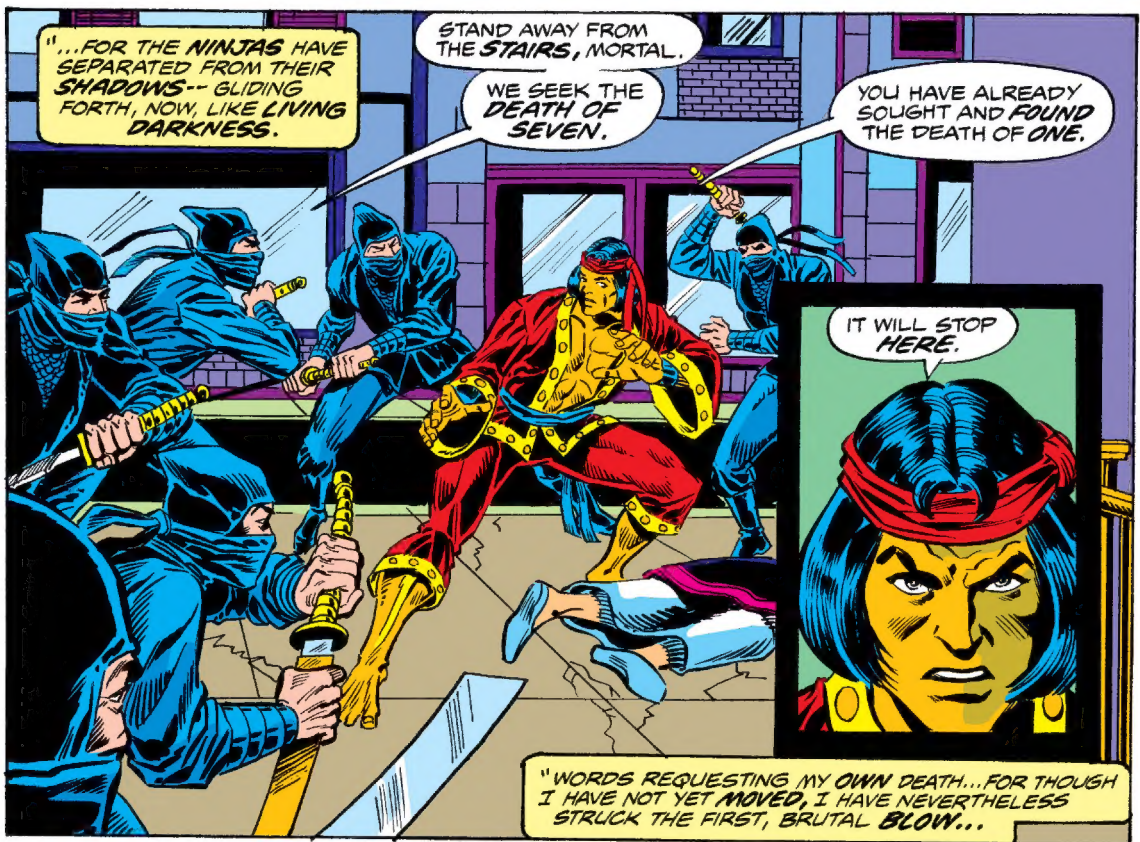
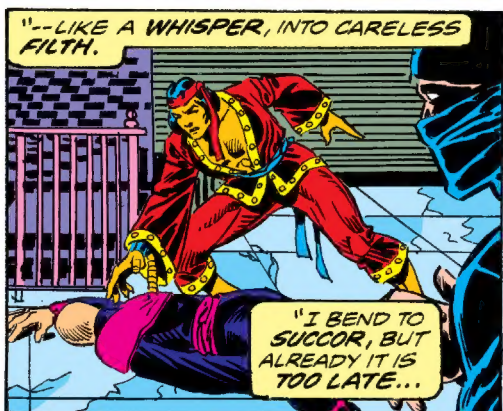
COME--
COME...!

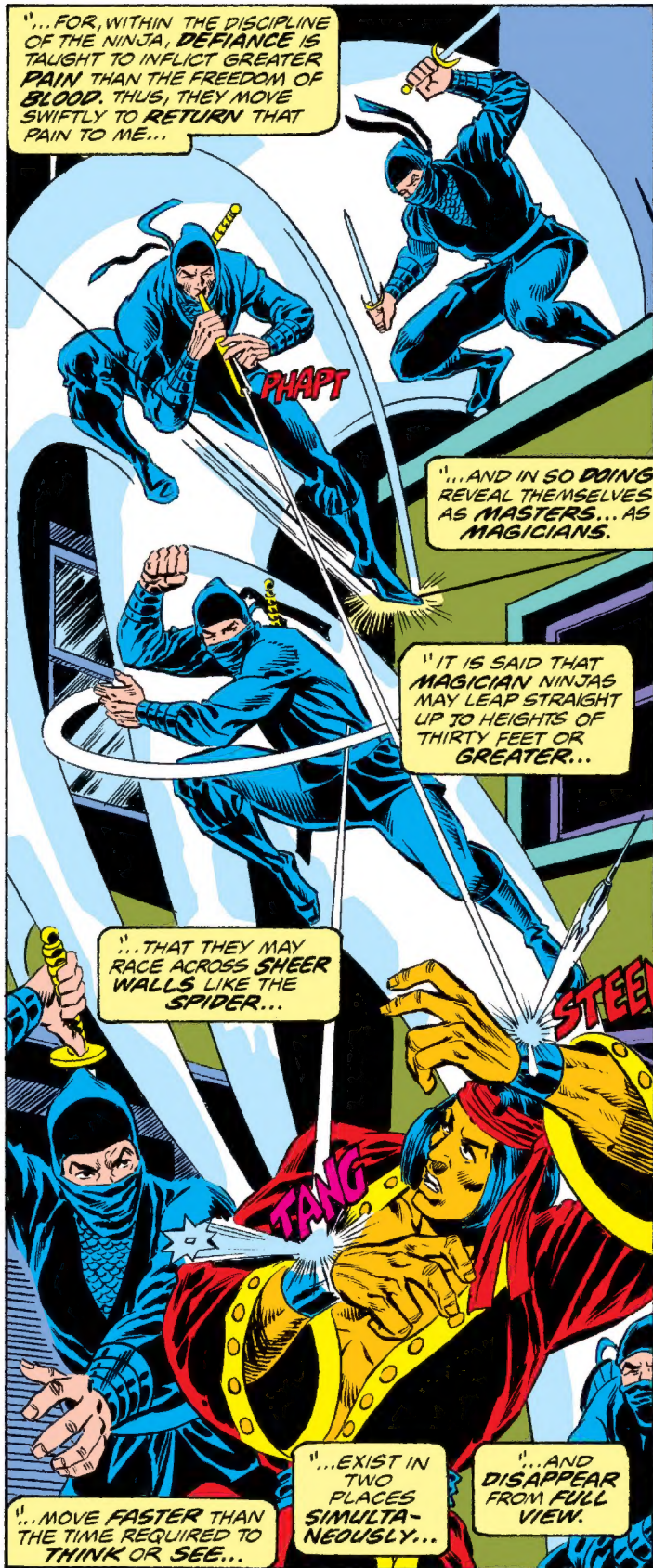
"...THEN OBEY, FOLLOWING
THE QUESTION... SEEKING
ONLY AN ANSWER.

FEATURING
SUPPORTING
CHARACTERS
CREATED BY
SAY
ROHMER.

DOUG MOENCH & KEITH POLLARD
YOUR GUIDES

SAL TRAPANI / JOHN COSTANZA / PETRA G. / M. WOLFGAN
INKER / letterer / colorist / EDITOR







"THERE IS NO OTHER WAY..."

"...THOUGH I KNOW I SPEAK TO MY MIND IN LIES."

ABLEMA
STOP



"HIS DAGGER--RUSHING TO GREET ME..."

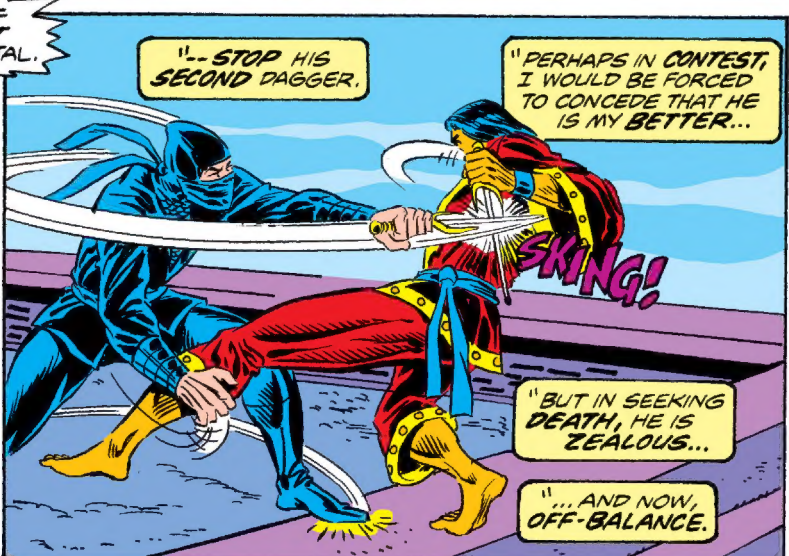


"I MUST HAVE IT."

"IT WILL BE NEEDED TO--"



THE WARLORDS OF THE WEB WILL NOT BE STOPPED, MORTAL.



"--STOP HIS SECOND DAGGER."

"PERHAPS IN CONTEST, I WOULD BE FORCED TO CONCEDE THAT HE IS MY BETTER..."

"BUT IN SEEKING DEATH, HE IS ZEALOUS..."

"...AND NOW, OFF-BALANCE."

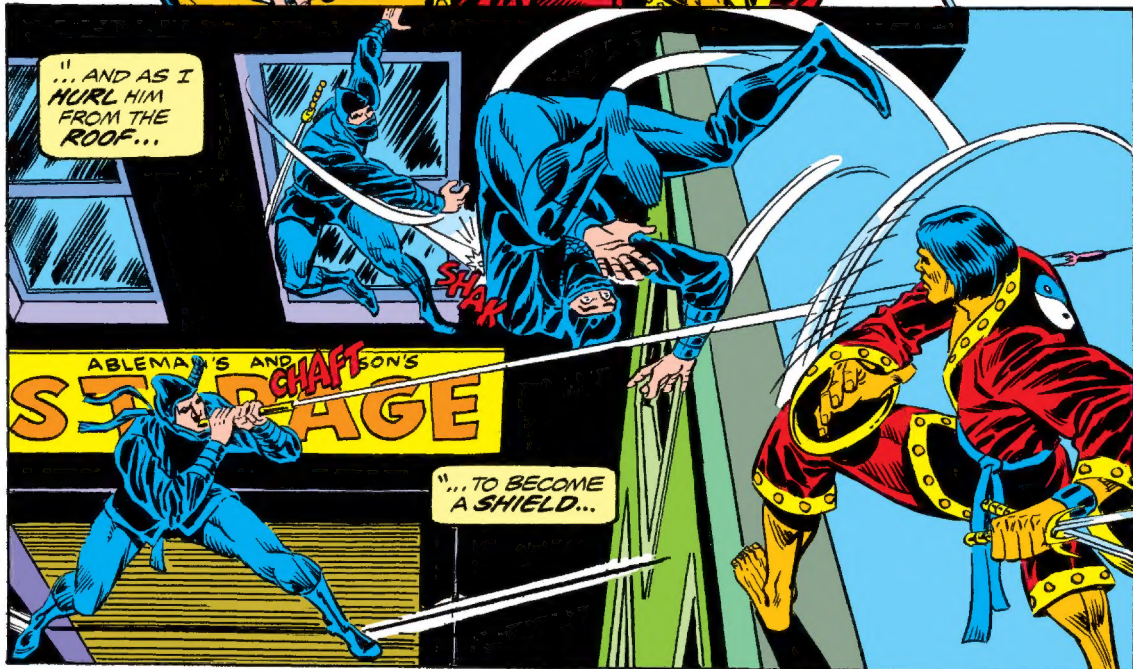
"HE REFUSES
TO CRY OUT
AS I TWIST..."

"...AS I THRUST AT ELBOW
AND PULL ON HAND..."

"...AS I STEAL HIS
SECOND BLADE..."



"...AND AS I
HURL HIM
FROM THE
ROOF..."



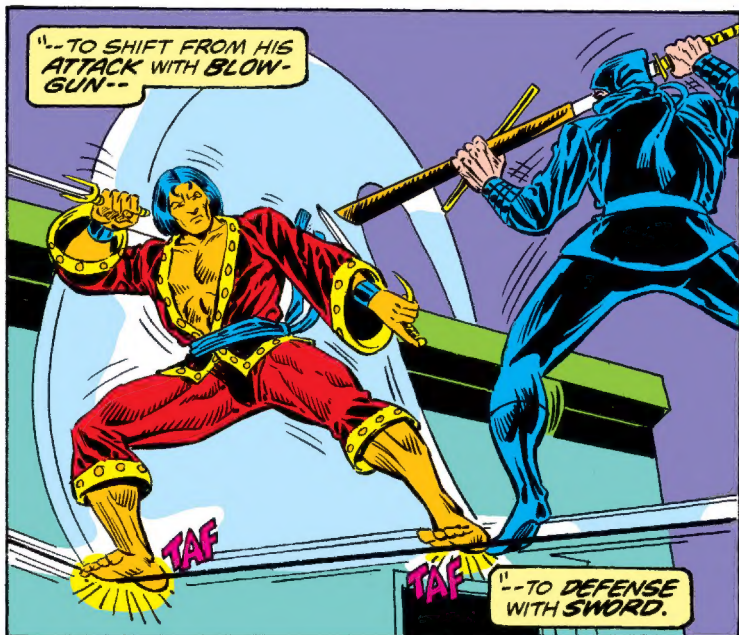
"...TO BECOME
A SHIELD..."

"...AS WELL AS A MISSILE."



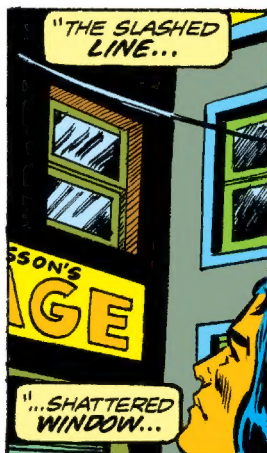
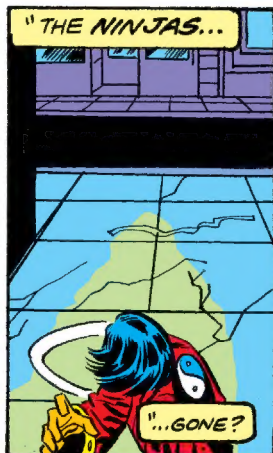
"BUT NOW I MUST FORCE
THE ONE BELOW--"

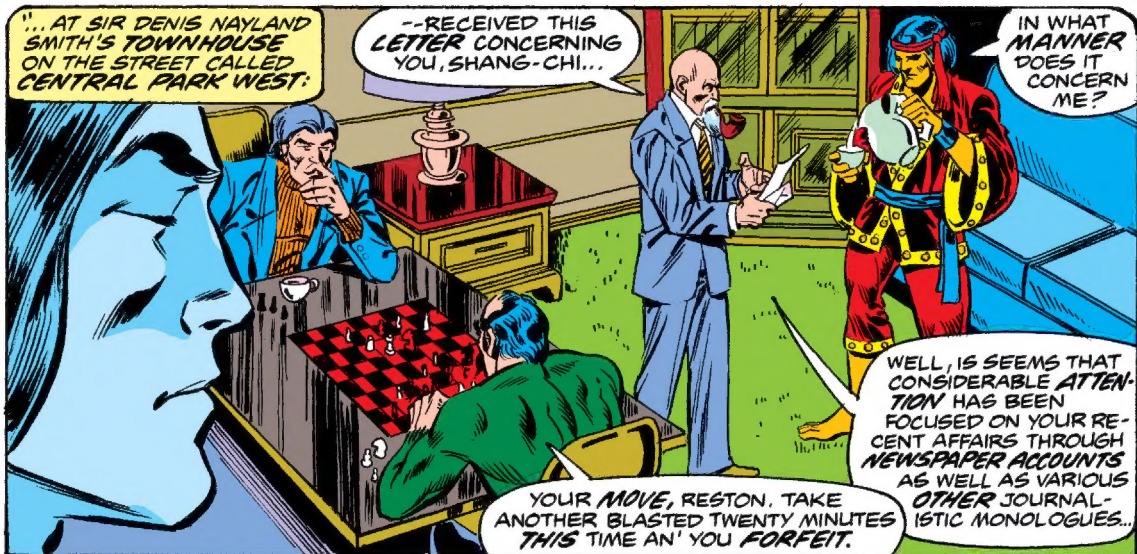
"--TO SHIFT FROM HIS
ATTACK WITH BLOW-
GUN--"



"--TO DEFENSE
WITH SWORD."







"...AT SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH'S TOWNHOUSE ON THE STREET CALLED CENTRAL PARK WEST:

--RECEIVED THIS LETTER CONCERNING YOU, SHANG-CHI...

IN WHAT MANNER DOES IT CONCERN ME?

WELL, IT SEEMS THAT CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON YOUR RECENT AFFAIRS THROUGH NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AS WELL AS VARIOUS OTHER JOURNALISTIC MONOLOGUES...

YOUR MOVE, RESTON. TAKE ANOTHER BLASTED TWENTY MINUTES THIS TIME AN' YOU FORFEIT.



...SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO PLACE YOU PROMINENTLY IN THE MIND OF SOMEONE SEEKING HELP.

HE SIGNS THE LETTER MOON SUN.

OF COURSE, IT COULD BE A TRAP... LAID BY FU MANCHU...

OR FAN LO SUEE, FOR THAT MATTER.

NO. THE STRIFE BETWEEN MY FATHER AND SISTER IS NOW CONFINED TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR OPPOSING FACTIONS OF SI-FAN. IT NO LONGER CONCERNS ME.

RATHER MYSTERIOUS LETTER, THEN.

PERHAPS. BUT THE PLEA FOR AID IS GENUINE. I WILL ANSWER IT.



BETTER SCOOT DOWN TO COLUMBUS AND 93RD, THEN--BY MIDNIGHT, THE LETTER SAYS... THOUGH IT LACKS ANY OTHER DETAILS.

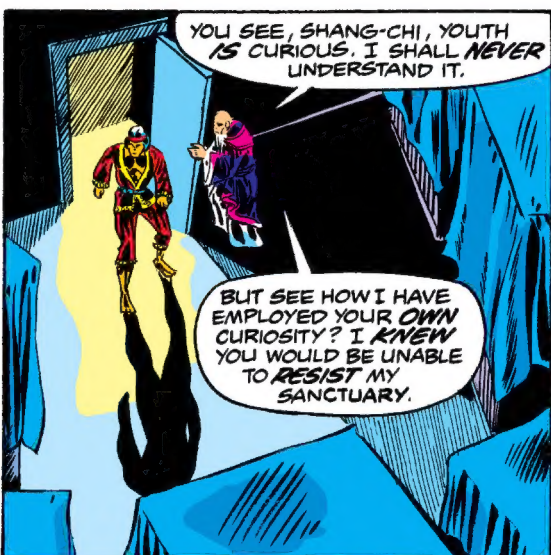


WANT BLACK JACK AND I TO ACCOMPANY YOU, CHI? QUITE A FEW QUESTION MARKS IN THE WHOLE BUSINESS...

THANK YOU, RESTON, NO. I WILL NOT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE TO DISCERN THE ANSWERS.

"BUT I WAS WRONG... AND BECAUSE OF IT, MOON SUN NOW LIES--"

COME, SHANG-CHI--!





AND YOU WILL NO LONGER RESIST EXPLANATION, MOON SUN. IF I AM TO AID YOU, I MUST KNOW--

AND YOU WILL KNOW--IN DUE TIME. BUT WE ARE SAFE NOW. THE TIME FOR HASTE HAS GROWN SLOW, AND FADED.



NOW: YOU REMEMBER I SAID I WOULD INTRODUCE YOU TO MORE MYSTERIES BEFORE ANSWERS. REGRETABLELY, I LIED.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR YOU TO INTRODUCE YOURSELF.



YOU SEE, I MUST LEAVE YOU HERE FOR SEVERAL TIMES, NONE OF THEM LONG, FOR IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT I GO TO FETCH MY TREASURE.

WHILE I AM AWAY, APPROACH ONE OF THE CANVAS BLOCKS AND ANNOUNCE YOURSELF. YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED...NOR, I HOPE, WILL THE CANVAS.



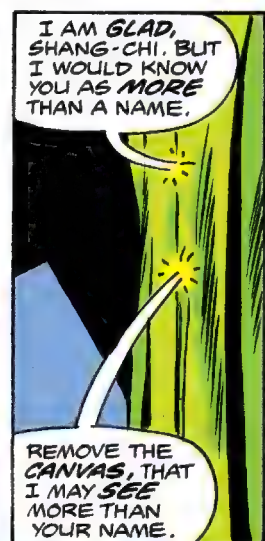
"...?"



"..."



I AM SHANG-CHI.



I AM GLAD, SHANG-CHI. BUT I WOULD KNOW YOU AS MORE THAN A NAME.

REMOVE THE CANVAS, THAT I MAY SEE MORE THAN YOUR NAME.



"MORE MAGIC--ENABLING CANVAS TO SPEAK...?"



"OR DOES THE CANVAS MERELY CONCEAL A VOICE WITHOUT MAGIC?"



"I WHIP THE CANVAS FREE, REVEALING THE FIRST ANSWER..."

"...AND LEARNING THAT IT IS ALSO THE--

FIRST MYSTERY: SATYR

NO, SHANG-CHI-- YOU MUST NOT DESTROY MY HOME!

"A CAGE. THE CANVAS HAS HIDDEN COLD BARS-- BARS WHICH ENTRAP A... MAN? NO MATTER. MAN OR MYTH, I MUST SHATTER THIS CAGE, AND FREE THE--

YOU WISH TO REMAIN IMPRISONED-- YOUR FREEDOM SLAIN BY THE BARS OF THIS CAGE--?

THIS CAGE IS MY FREEDOM... MY ONLY FREEDOM...

...MY ONLY RETREAT FROM THE MORE CONFINING CAGE CALLED THE WORLD.

BUT WHAT--WHO--ARE YOU THAT YOU SO FEAR THE WORLD?

I AM PAN SING, SON OF SILENUS, HALF-BROTHER TO DIONYSUS. I AM A COWARD. I AM LECHEROUS. I AM BIBULOUS. I AM AN EXILE FROM THE HOUSE OF FAUN. AND I AM A MYSTERY.

GO TO THE NEXT CANVAS, SEEKER... AND THERE ANNOUNCE YOURSELF.

"HE TURNS AWAY, REFUSING TO SPEAK. PERHAPS, THEN, THE SECOND CANVAS WILL HOLD THE ANSWER..."

I AM SHANG-CHI.

ARE YOU CERTAIN?

REMOVE THE CANVAS AND YOU WILL SEE THAT I TOO WAS ONCE A MAN, SUCH AS YOURSELF..

...BUT THAT I AM NOW--

MORE I CANNOT SAY, UNTIL YOU COMPLY WITH MOON SUN'S REQUEST.

SECOND MYSTERY: WULFF

-- CINNABAR. BE WARNED, SEEKER-- SHOULD YOU ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE BARS OF MY HOME, I WILL SPILL THE BLOOD FROM YOUR FLESH, AND REND THE FLESH FROM YOUR BONES.

THEN REMAIN IMPRISONED IF YOU WISH. I WOULD ONLY SPEAK WITH YOU AND LEARN--

YOU WOULD ONLY PRY IS WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN! YOU WOULD CUT DEEPLY INTO THE SOUL OF MYSTERY, RIP OUT ITS HEART AND EXAMINE IT UNTIL YOUR FOUL CURIOSITY IS SATISFIED... AND THEN CAST THE HEART ASIDE, LEAVING THE MYSTERY SLAIN--!

BUT KNOW THAT I AM THE MYSTERY, SHANG-CHI-- AND I WILL NOT ALLOW MY HEART TO BE TORN FROM MY SOUL!

FOR I AM CINNABAR-- AND I AM WISE TO THE DECEITS OF MEN.

BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE ONCE A MAN YOURSELF...

ONLY WHEN I KNEW NO BETTER.

THEN YOU WERE NOT ALWAYS... WHAT YOU ARE NOW...?

NO-- AND YOU WERE NOT ALWAYS WHAT YOU ARE NOW.

YOU BELIEVE YOU EMBODY A HIGHER FORM?

I BELIEVE I WILL TEAR YOUR FACE FROM YOUR SKULL IF YOU DO NOT OBEY WHAT EVER MOON SUN INSTRUCTS.

BUT YOU WILL NOT EXPLAIN YOURSELF?

I WOULD SOONER DIE THAN LAY BARE THE HEART OF MYSTERY! GO TO THE OTHERS IF YOU WISH EXPLANATIONS...

ANNOUNCE YOURSELF TO THEM-- AND LISTEN TO THEIR LIES!

"IT IS TORMENT WHICH SHAPES HIS WORDS IN RAGE. STILL, IF HE WILL NOT ANSWER, THEN PERHAPS THE NEXT..."

I AM SHANG-CHI.

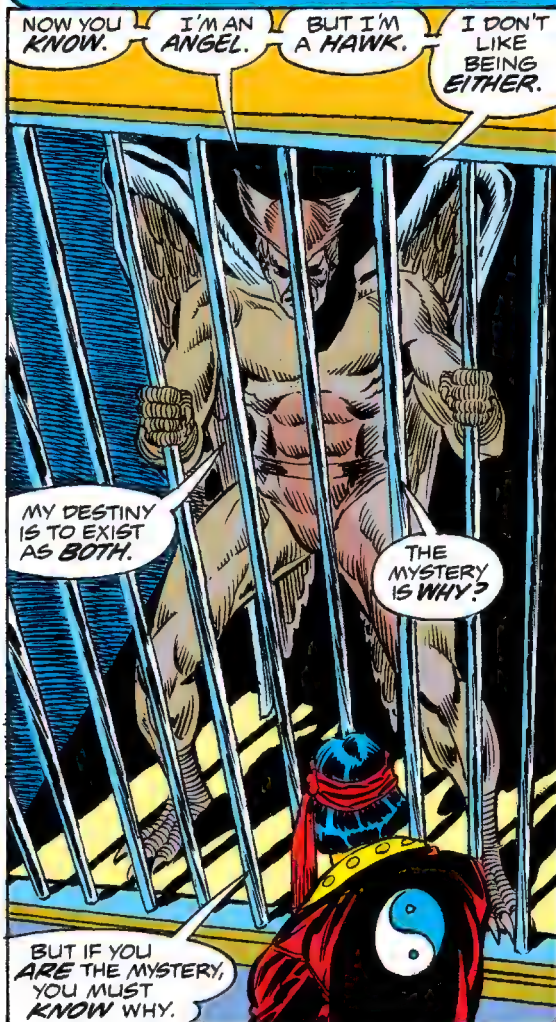
HOW DO YOU DO?

I'M GEORGE, UNFORTUNATELY.

"GEORGE--?"

"A NAME SPOKEN IN SUCH UTTER MELANCHOLY AND DESPAIR. WHAT MANNER OF BEING DOES THIS CANVAS CLOAK IN DARKNESS...?"

THIRD MYSTERY: ANGEL-HAWK



NOW YOU **KNOW**.

I'M AN **ANGEL**.

BUT I'M A **HAWK**.

I DON'T LIKE BEING **EITHER**.

MY DESTINY IS TO EXIST AS **BOTH**.

THE MYSTERY IS **WHY?**

BUT IF YOU ARE THE MYSTERY, YOU MUST **KNOW** WHY.



DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE I **KNOW** MYSELF--??

...THAT I CAN **EXPLAIN** MYSELF?

YES.



THEN YOUR SADNESS MUST BE GREATER THAN **MINE**.

DO YOU KNOW **YOUR** SELF?



CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY YOU'RE HERE--?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT COMPELLED YOU TO **FOLLOW** MOON SUN?

IS CURIOSITY A SUFFICIENT **MOTIVATION** FOR YOUR **LIFE** IN THIS NIGHT? WILL THE **ANSWERS** FEED YOUR FLESH, OR SUSTAIN YOUR **SOUL**?



OR DO YOU MERELY EXIST LIKE **ME**-- TO FILL A VACUUM WITH **ANGUISH**? YOU DON'T KNOW, DO YOU? NOR DO I. ANNOUNCE YOURSELF TO THE **OTHERS**. IF **THEY** KNOW, I IMPORE YOU TO RETURN AND TELL **ME**.



AND PLEASE, SEEKER-- PLEASE, **SHANG-CHI**-- DO **WHATEVER** MOON SUN REQUESTS OF YOU IN THE **FUTURE**. YOU WILL BE **AIDING** MORE THAN THE **MYSTERY**.

"I DO NOT KNOW...AND I AM BEGINNING TO QUESTION WHY I **MUST**. STILL..."



I...AM **SHANG-CHI**...?

YOUR VOICE IS **BEAUTIFUL**, **SHANG-CHI**...

...AS IS THE **MEANING** OF YOUR **NAME**: "THE **RISING** AND **ADVANCING** OF A **SPIRIT**"...



MY NAME IS **SHEENA**.

ITS MEANING MUST REMAIN A **MYSTERY**.

...AS WELL AS THAT WHICH **AWAITS** ME BEHIND THE **CANVAS**...?

FOURTH MYSTERY: SEAMAID



HOW...MAY YOU
SPEAK...THROUGH
WATER...?

IN THE SAME WAY YOU
SPEAK THROUGH AIR,
SHANG-CHI...

...FROM MY HEART--
TO YOUR HEART.

THE WORDS ARE
EXCEEDED IN UN-
IMPORTANCE ONLY
BY THAT WHICH
CARRIES THEM.

IT IS THE
FEELING
WHICH
MATTERS.



YES...BUT YOUR
RIDDLE...

...IS NOT AN
ANSWER.



WHY NOT-- WHEN
YOUR QUESTION
...IS A QUESTION?

YOU MIGHT HAVE
ASKED HOW I BREATHE
THROUGH WATER...



...BUT THE RIDDLE
WOULD HAVE
CHANGED ONLY
SLIGHTLY.

IT IS STILL THE FEELING
WHICH MATTERS-- AND
THE FEELING DOES NOT
CARE IF YOU DON'T.

STILL, I FEEL CONFIDENCE IN YOUR
FEELING. I KNOW YOU WILL ACQUI-
ESCE TO MOON SUN'S PLEA...

...AND THEREBY BIRTH
THE SALVATION OF
US ALL.

BUT NOW, SHEENA
BIDS YOU
ONWARD...



...TO MEET FURTHER
MYSTERY.

"I WILL MEET THE OTHERS
--AND PERHAPS WITH RISING
ANGER.



I AM
SHANG-CHI!

YES-- BUT
ARE YOU A
MYSTERY--?

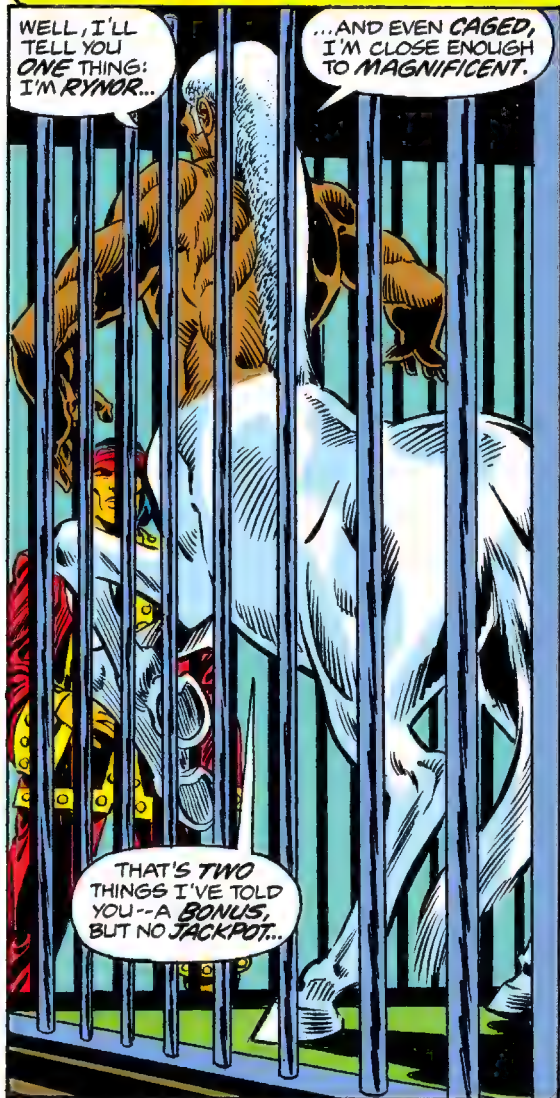


OR HAVE YOU
COME MERELY
TO EXAMINE
MYSTERIES?

AH! WELCOME TO MY
EYES. I HALF-EXPECTED
THE WARLORDS OF
THE WEB--OR WORSE,
MORE GAWKERS...

BUT YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO
I AM, DON'T YOU...?

FIFTH MYSTERY: UNITAUR



WELL, I'LL
TELL YOU
ONE THING:
I'M **RYNOR**...

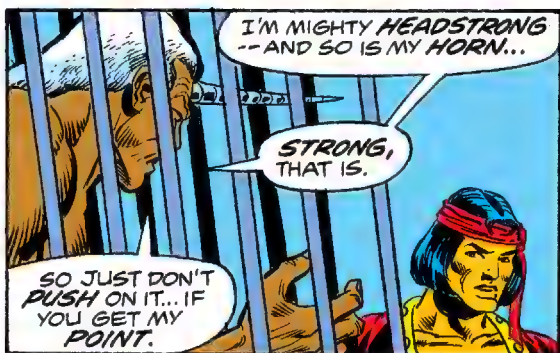
...AND EVEN **CAGED**,
I'M CLOSE ENOUGH
TO **MAGNIFICENT**.

THAT'S **TWO**
THINGS I'VE TOLD
YOU--A **BONUS**,
BUT NO **JACKPOT**...



YOU SEE I CAN BE
PRETTY TIGHT WITH
THE ANSWERS TOO.

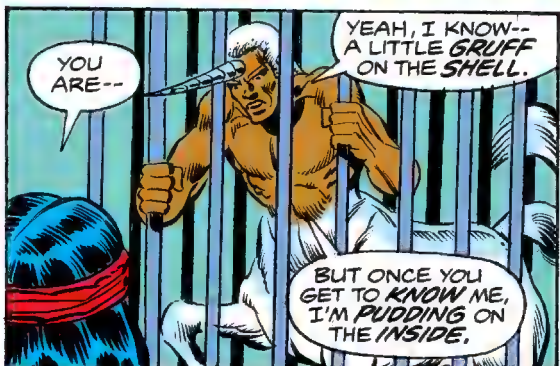
SO, JUST A
LITTLE **HINT**,
SHANG-CHI...



I'M MIGHTY **HEADSTRONG**--
AND SO IS MY **HORN**...

STRONG,
THAT IS.

SO JUST DON'T
PUSH ON IT... IF
YOU GET MY
POINT.



YOU
ARE--

YEAH, I KNOW--
A LITTLE **GRUFF**
ON THE **SHELL**.

BUT ONCE YOU
GET TO **KNOW** ME,
I'M **PUDDING** ON
THE **INSIDE**.



LOOK; ALL I
WANT IS **YOU**
TO HELP ME
HELP **MYSELF**.

IT'S NO **BIG MYSTERY**.
WE ALL **KNOW** IT, AND
NONE OF US ARE MAK-
ING ANY **BONES** ABOUT IT.



GO ON AND ASK THE **LAST**
TWO. **THEY'LL** TELL YOU.

AND
MUST I
ANNOUNCE
MYSELF
AGAIN?

I'M AFRAID SO. **MOON SUN**
HAS A THING ABOUT **TRADITION**
AND **ORDER**. SO WE TRY TO **HUMOR**
HIM AS WE'D **HUMOR OURSELVES**. IT'D
BE NICE IF **YOU'D** DO THE **SAME**.



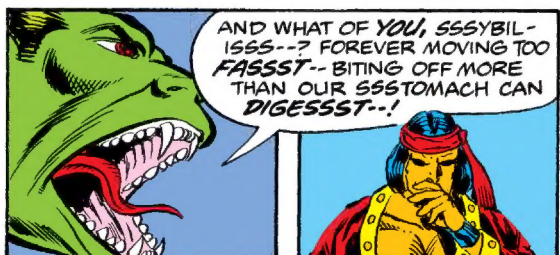
I AM **SHANG-CHI**.

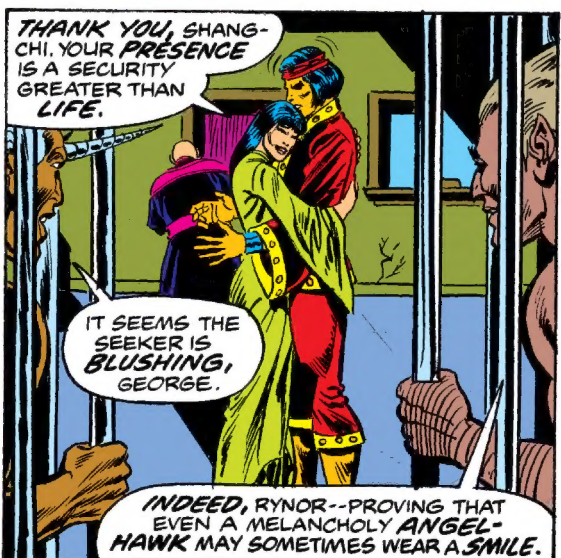
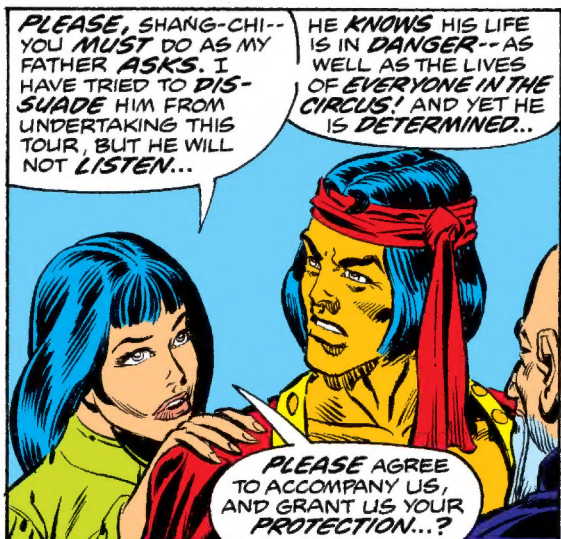
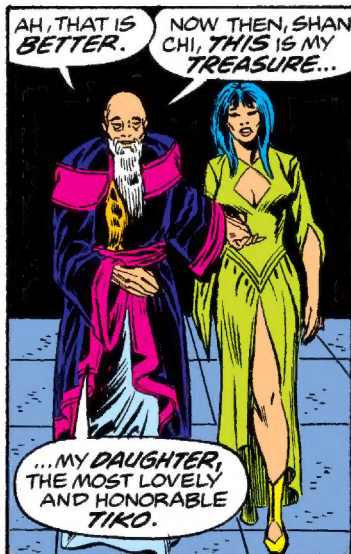
SSSSO
WHAT?

OH, **SSSTOP**
BEING **SSSSO**
HOSSSTILE--!

"DOES THE BEING IN THE
NEXT CAGE SPEAK TO
ITSELF? OR DOES THE
CANVAS **MASK** MORE THAN
ONE MYSTERY...?"

SIXTH MYSTERY: AND A SERPENT, TWO





"MORNING: MOON SUN HAS REQUESTED THAT I MEET HIM AND HIS CIRCUS IN THE MANHATTAN TERMINAL KNOWN AS PENN STATION...AT SEVEN O'CLOCK.

31ST Street

"I WALK TOWARD THAT TERMINAL NOW...

TALK ABOUT YOUR *WEIRDOOS*...!

NG
E

"...THOUGH I HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE *TIME*.

SHANG-CHI--!

YOU ARE LATE.

LATE, TIKO...?

YES, THE TRAIN WILL SOON DEPART.

THE OTHERS ARE ALREADY WAITING IN THE NEXT BAGGAGE CAR.

"YES, A CIRCUS SUCH AS MOON SUN'S WOULD REQUIRE A BAGGAGE CAR...

"BUT--

IS THIS ALL...?

HASTEN, SHANG-CHI! THERE IS NO TIME TO SPEAK--ALREADY THE TRAIN BEGINS TO MOVE...!

YES, BUT IS THIS YOUR ENTIRE CIRCUS--?



NEXT **TRAPPED IN DARKSTRIDER'S WEB OF DEATH!**